

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 EB-07 SP-02 L-02 INR-07

IO-10 /062 W

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R 211928Z MAR 75
FM USMISSION OECD PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASH DC 6132
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 07270

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, OECD
SUBJECT: JAPANESE PROPOSAL FOR OECD-RELATED PROJECT ON
FUTURE INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY

REFS: A) USOECD 23965, OCT. 10, 1974; B) TOKYO 3647

1. DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE THAT MISSION PROVIDED ITS INITIAL ANALYSIS OF JAPANESE PROPOSAL IN REF A. NOTE FROM SECGEN REFERRED TO IN REF B WILL BE HAND-CARRIED TO DEPARTMENT BY EUR/RPE DIRECTOR PREEG. NOT WAS CIRCULATED IN JANUARY AS INTERNAL SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT WHICH HAS NOT OFFICIAL STATUS. SECGEN DID NOT TAKE UP JAPANESE PROPOSAL IN COUNCIL AS HE INDICATED HE WOULD IN JANUARY NOTE BECAUSE WE AND OTHER KEY DELEGATIONS THOUGHT JAPANESE SHOULD TAKE LEAD IN GAINING ACCEPTANCE AT HIGH LEVEL BY OTHER

MAJOR OECD GOVERNMENTS BEFORE SECRETARIAT ATTEMPTED TO ELABORATE DETAILED PROPOSALS FOR IMPLEMENTATION. BECAUSE SECGEN'S NOTE ADDED NOTHING TO OUR PREVIOUS REPORTING ON THIS SUBJECT, WE DID NOT TRANSMIT IT TO WASHINGTON.

2. ACCORDING TO DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER YOSHINO AND OTHER JAPANESE OFFICIALS WITH WHOME WE HAVE SPOKEN HERE, GOJ CONTINUES TO VIEW THIS PROPOSAL AS MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE AND CONSIDERS US SUPPORT TO BE ESSENTIAL TO ITS SUCCESS. WE WERE TOLD BY JAPANESE HERE THAT

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ACTIVE GOJ FOLLOW-UP ON PROPOSAL, WHICH WAS FIRST

ENUNCIATED LAST SUMMER, WAS DELAYED BY CHANGE IN GOVERNMENTS (WHICH MADE IT NECESSARY FOR YOSHINO AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO RESELL THE PROPOSAL TO A NEW CABINET) AND BY SOME DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING THE NECESSARY BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FROM THE FINANCE MINISTRY TO ALLOW A MAJOR GOJ CONTRIBUTION. BOTH OF THESE PROBLEMS HAVE NOW BEEN RESOLVED. YOSHINO TOLD US DURING IEA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING IN PARIS IN EARLY MARCH THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE PROPOSAL WITH P. M. MIKI, WHO REACTED VERY FAVORABLY. MOREOVER, FINANCE MINISTRY HAS AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURE OF \$300,000 THIS FISCAL YEAR FOR THE PROJECT IF IT IS ACCEPTED BY OTHER OECD NATIONS. YOSHINO FEELS CONFIDENT THAT JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION WILL REACH \$1 OVER PROPOSED 3-4 YEAR LIFE OF PROGRAM.

3. JAPANESE PROPOSAL HAS CONTINUED AS SUBJECT OF ACTIVE INTEREST AMONG OECD DELEGATIONS AND WITHIN SECRETARIAT. WHILE DETAILS OF PROGRAM'S CONTENT AND STRUCTURE HAVE NOT YET BEEN WORKED OUT, WE BELIEVE IT HAS CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL MERIT AS AN EFFORT TO INDUCE TOP GOVERNMENT POLICY MAKERS AND ACADEMIC AND BUSINESS LEADERS TO MAKE A SERIOUS LOOK AT PROJECTED TRENDS IN THE ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES AND, HOPEFULLY, TO IDENTIFY OPTIONAL COURSES OF ACTION AIMED AT ACHIEVING OUR OPTIMUM GOALS. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THIS PROPOSAL DESERVES SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF USG BOTH ON ITS MERITS AND BECAUSE OF THE SIGNIFICANCE WHICH THE JAPANESE ATTACH TO IT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OECDP07270
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750100-0687
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750327/aaaaayli.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USOECD 23965, 75 OC10, 75 1974, 75 TOKYO 3647
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE PROPOSAL FOR OECD-RELATED PROJECT ON FUTURE INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY
TAGS: EGEN, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006